

To: Gartner, Lois[Gartner.Lois@epa.gov]; Wells, Suzanne[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov]
Cc: Williams, Thea[Williams.Thea@epa.gov]
From: Cohen, Nancy
Sent: Mon 3/25/2013 2:20:37 PM
Subject: FW: ACTION: Rolling Stone & Westlake

Lois and Suzanne: this is what we plan to send the Rolling Stone Magazine reporter re:
Westlake, nancy

From: Hood, Rich
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 4:33 PM
To: Delp, Robert; Jones, Enesta
Cc: Cohen, Nancy; Milbourn, Cathy; Minter, Marsha; Johnson, Alisha
Subject: RE: ACTION: Rolling Stone & Westlake

R 7 suggests these edit and this language:

EPA has engaged in an extensive public involvement process to address public health concerns in the community surrounding the West Lake Superfund Site. This includes public meetings and the careful consideration of hundreds of public comments on EPA proposals regarding the site. The scientific analysis conducted by EPA at the site included a number of gamma and radionological tests and installation of monitoring wells to determine whether traces of radiation could be found in groundwater. To date, the scientific data, which has gone through the agency's rigorous quality assurance process, indicates the community is not at risk from waste.

Rich Hood

Associate Regional Administrator

For Media, Intergovernmental Relations

913-551-7906

(cell) 913-339-8327

From: Delp, Robert
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 3:10 PM
To: Jones, Enesta
Cc: Cohen, Nancy; Milbourn, Cathy; Minter, Marsha; Hood, Rich; Johnson, Alisha
Subject: RE: ACTION: Rolling Stone & Westlake

+Rich and Alisha

How about this:

Draft Desk Statement

EPA has engaged in an extensive public involvement process to address public health concerns in the community surrounding the Westlake Superfund site.

This includes public meetings with state and federal officials, and the careful consideration of thousands of public comments on EPA proposals regarding the site. The scientific analysis conducted by EPA at the site includes a number of gamma and radiological tests, and test drilling to determine whether traces of radiation could be found in groundwater. To date, EPA's scientific data, which has gone through the agency's rigorous quality assurance process, indicate that the community is not at risk from waste.

BACKGROUND

- Landfill fire is in one of the non-radiological landfill cells on site, and is more than 1,000 feet from the nearest radiologically-contaminated cell.

- Some local governments (local municipality and county) and the Missouri General Assembly (state legislature) have passed non-binding resolutions calling for cleanup authority for the site to be transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the FUSRAP program.

- The Corps of Engineers, through the FUSRAP program, has indeed addressed a number of sites in the St. Louis area, but none with the unique characteristics of West Lake Landfill, which is a Superfund site on the NPL. It would require an act of Congress to transfer EPA's responsibility for the site to the FUSRAP program; this cannot be done by administrative unilateral or bilateral action. Even under

FUSRAP, the Corps of Engineers would be required by CERCLA to implement the same Superfund process that is currently being applied by EPA. As previously stated, no final decision for a remedy at West Lake Landfill has been made. Additional investigation to obtain more current scientific data is ongoing. That data will ultimately be used by EPA to make a responsible, informed, best decision regarding a remedy for this site.

Additional q's provided by reporter:

1. Does the EPA agree with Dr. Criss' assessment that the NRC's characterization of the waste as "leached barium sulfate is false?

RESPONSE: No.

2. If so, what accounts for the EPA's numerous citations of said characterization?

RESPONSE: NRC is national expert in these matters. We defer to their acknowledged expertise in characterizing these materials.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 5:05 PM
To: Delp, Robert
Cc: Jones, Enesta; Cohen, Nancy; Milbourn, Cathy; Minter, Marsha
Subject: ACTION: Rolling Stone & Westlake

Bo,

This is good to go by me, OSWER and Region 7.

STATEMENT

EPA's mission is to protect people's health and the environment. While the agency has not made a final decision on the remedy that will be implemented at West Lake Landfill, it believes that the community is not at risk from the waste. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, EPA has responsibility for the site and its investigation of the proposed remedy and alternatives, which was prompted by the National Remedy Review Board, continues. As new information becomes available, the agency will share it with the public.

BACKGROUND

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Enesta Jones

Press Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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